

May 2014



Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Updates

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Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA Office

11 Industrial Park Drive
Walpole, NH 03608

Phone: 603-756-2970 ext 2
Fax: 603-756-2978
www.fsa.usda.gov/NH
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

County Executive Director:
Kelly Greenbacker
kelly.greenbacker@nh.usda.gov

County Committee:
Timothy Gowen, Chair
Leo Hunter, Vice-Chair
Chris Bartlett, Member
Hank Kenney, Member
Linda Rice, Member

Reminder - Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Compliance

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, they must be compliant with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions. Farmers with HEL determined soils must apply tillage, crop residue and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. **Producers should notify FSA** prior to tilling and planting an agricultural commodity on any land that has not been determined by NRCS.

Producers should also notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing and drainage projects to ensure compliance. If you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits.

Landowners can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

For more information on these provisions, contact the county office or visit the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

GovDelivery Customers are NOT impacted by the Heartbleed Bug

Next County Committee

Meeting: Tuesday, June 17 at 6:00 pm

NH-Acting Farm Loan Manager:

Brian Kuper
brian.kuper@vt.usda.gov

Farm Loans:

The Concord Center
10 Ferry St, Suite 212
Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-223-6003

GovDelivery customer subscriptions are not affected by the Heartbleed bug.

This bug has caused major security concerns among users of cloud technology. The Heartbleed bug refers to a flaw in an encryption tool used on the Internet that can expose data that is meant to be hidden.

Your GovDelivery Accounty and information is safe. Nothing in the GovDelivery network architecture is affected by this bug.

You can find out more about the Heartbleed bug at <http://heartbleed.com/>.

Upcoming Acreage Reporting Deadline

In order to comply with FSA program eligibility requirements, all producers are encouraged to visit the Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline. Cheshire-Sullivan County **producers are reminded to call the county office when planting is complete** to provide necessary information and schedule an appointment. To file a complete acreage report, the producer must provide crop type, variety, intended use, and planting date for each field.

The following acreage reporting dates are applicable for Cheshire-Sullivan Counties:

May 31, 2014 - Ornamental Nursery

July 15, 2014 - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops

The following exceptions apply to the above acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is complete.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Cheshire-Sullivan County office at (603) 756-2970 ext 2.

Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as fertilizer, utilities,

land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact the local FSA office to set up an appointment.

USDA Farm Service Agency announces Tree Assistance Program (TAP) Sign-Up

As of Tuesday, April 15, 2014, orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011, can sign up for the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). TAP was authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 as a permanent disaster program. TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 500 acres annually.

Livestock Disaster Assistance Sign-Up Underway

Livestock disaster program enrollment opened on April 15, 2014. These disaster programs are authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill as permanent programs and provide retroactive authority to cover losses that occurred on or after Oct. 1, 2011. To expedite applications, all producers who experienced losses are encouraged to bring records documenting those losses to their local FSA Office. Producers should record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences.

Eligible producers can sign-up for the following livestock disaster assistance programs:

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP):

LIP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather and/or attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law. Producers who suffered livestock death losses should submit a notice of loss and an application for payment to their local FSA office by January 30, 2015.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP):

ELAP provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by LFP and LIP. Producers who suffered eligible livestock, honeybee or farm-raised fish losses during 2012 and 2013 program years must submit a notice of loss and application for payment to their local FSA office by August 1, 2014. For 2014 program year losses, the notice of

loss and an application for payment must be submitted by November 1, 2014.

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP):

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. Eligible producers must physically be located in a county affected by a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county. Producers who suffered eligible grazing losses should submit a completed CCC-853 and supporting documentation by January 30, 2015.

For more information, producers can review the LFP, LIP and ELAP Fact Sheets on the [Farm Bill website](#). Producers are encouraged to make an appointment with their local FSA office to apply for these programs.

Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) Sign-Up Period for 2012 Crop Losses Begins

Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that sign-up has begun for 2012 crop losses under the SURE program. The program, established by the 2008 Farm Bill, provides for one final period of eligibility for producers suffering crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30 2011, for crops intended for 2012 harvest.

To be eligible for SURE, a farm must have been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture under a Secretarial Disaster Designation. In this case, the farm must have suffered at least a 10% production loss on a crop of economic significance resulting from a disaster occurring on or before Sept. 30, 2011. Without this disaster designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50% of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A "farm" for SURE purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland for haying.

For more information on the SURE program and additional eligibility criteria, please contact the Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/sure. Farmers interested in signing up must do so before the Aug. 29, 2014, deadline.

Dates to Remember and May Interest Rates

Dates to Remember

May 5 - SURE sign-up begins for 2012 crop losses

May 19 - Cheshire-Sullivan County FSA presents "Access to Farm Funding/Financing" workshop at The Monadnock Farm Summit, 5:30 pm - Heberton Hall, Keene

May 26 - Memorial Day Holiday - Office Closed

May 30 - MILC start month changes - relief period ends

May 31 - Acreage Reporting Deadline - Ornamental Nursery

July 15 - Acreage Reporting Deadline - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding, All Other Crops

July 15 - NAP participants: 2013 production reporting deadline for covered crops

Selected Interest Rates for May 2014

Farm Operating Loans (including Microloans) - 2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - 4.00%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer - 1.50%
Farm Ownership Loans - Direct - Joint Financing - 2.50%
Emergency Loans - 3.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 years) - 2.25%

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).